

The first provision that I support is the contraception coverage for employees under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan. This provision, which passed as an amendment in 1998, has been threatened every year. This year, President Bush eliminated this provision in his Budget Blueprint. Fortunately, this Congress realized its significance and worked to keep it in this conference report.

The Federal Government is the nation's largest employer and the FEHB program is the basic health plan for federal employees and their families. The contraception coverage provision is an important component of this plan because family planning is a vital family issue.

Family planning should not be a political issue, but a personal issue. Contraception coverage helps women to plan their families responsibly. Adequate contraception access makes planned pregnancies possible.

Contraception access is also crucial to preventing the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease and unintended pregnancies.

Approximately 1.2 million women rely on this program for their medical care. Women of reproductive age spend more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men.

Also Mr. Speaker, I support the provision that bars the use of funds made available for the Customs Service in this Act to allow the importation of any good produced or manufactured by forced or indentured child labor.

Another important provision includes the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act of 2001, which allows the reauthorization of the issuance of the breast cancer research postage stamp at a special rate of postage.

It is important to recognize and support the September 11 Heroes Stamp Act of 2001, which this bill does. Through this stamp, assistance will be provided to the families of emergency relief personnel killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001. In the same vein, I introduced H. Con. Res. 228 to expedite Federal services and benefits to the children who lost a parent or guardian as a result of the attacks.

I also support the provision appropriating \$1.3 million to implement the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

One exception to this Conference Report is the provision that prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for an abortion through FEHB. I strongly oppose this.

For those who rely on the FEHB program for their medical care, they are unable to take advantage of the same reproductive health care services that are available to private sector employees.

The current provision discriminates against women in public sector service. Federal employees should not be denied this legal health procedure simply because of the political nature of abortion. For a government employee faced with the decision about a serious fetal health condition, this provision leaves her with few options.

Although the provision contains exceptions for cases of rape and incest or cases where the life of the mother is in danger, this language contains no health exception. This omission places many women in the painful decision to continue a potentially health-threatening pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, my biggest disappointment concerning this legislation is its failure to ad-

dress the real crisis facing the Postal Service today. There are Members of Congress who have joined together in a bipartisan fashion to draft legislation that address critical security issues facing the Postal Service.

I sit on the Homeland Security Task Force and serve as Vice-Chair of the Domestic Law Enforcement Working Group of this Task Force. Our legislative initiative, the Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2001 (BioP Act) will be introduced this week.

The BioP Act authorizes \$250 million dollars to address the threats to the operation of our mail delivery system. The Act's proposed solutions include developing and deploying faster scanning technologies that can be widely implemented in local sorting facilities.

Another solution to these biological threats is the implementation of improved mail tracking abilities to track suspicious packages to their source, and to investigate "treating" mail with radiation or other methods to reduce or mitigate threats posed by mail.

The Act strongly encourages the Administration to respond urgently to the needs of the Postal Service and its employees.

Mr. Speaker, we live in dangerous times. We must do our best as legislators to be proactive. I urge my colleagues to support passage of the Treasury and Postal Operations Conference Report.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA GILBOA ON
BEING AWARDED THE 2001 ST.
MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT
AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Gilboa, a distinguished citizen and a resident of San Mateo County, who is being honored on November 6, 2001, by the Sacred Heart Schools of Atherton, California, with the 2001 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award.

A graduate in history from Ohio State and Columbia Universities, Donna Gilboa went on to teach at various educational institutions, including a private school in Detroit, Michigan, Portland Community College, and Portland University in Oregon. She became a member of the faculty of Sacred Heart Preparatory in 1975. For twenty-five years, Donna Gilboa served as Chair of the Social Sciences Department at Sacred Heart, instilling in her students a love and a deep appreciation of history.

Donna Gilboa is best known at Sacred Heart for her legendary World Civilization course. Delivered with uncompromising detail and a witty sense of humor, her lectures never fail to inspire. My daughter Karen, now Academic Dean at St. Joseph's School, credits Donna Gilboa with instilling in her a lasting love of history, leading her to ultimately choose education as a career. Karen considers herself exceptionally fortunate to teach with her today.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Donna Gilboa as she receives the 2001 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her and thanking her for her extraordinary service to our

community. We are indeed a better community, a better county, and a better country because of her.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF IVEY RANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Ivey Ranch Elementary School and the Oceanside Unified School District for its achievement in earning recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School. Ivey Ranch Elementary is the first school in the Oceanside Unified School District to receive National Blue Ribbon recognition. This makes their achievement all the more significant and remarkable, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share the news of their success with my colleagues in this distinguished body.

Ivey Ranch Elementary is a model of excellence in my district, the state of California, and the nation. It has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students. Ivey Ranch is the first school in the Oceanside Unified School District to surpass the state's goal of an 800 Academic Performance Index for all schools. Ivey Ranch students have raised their standardized test scores significantly in the past four years. Math scores at the fourth grade level increased from the 50th percentile in 1998 to the 82nd percentile in 2001. Third-graders are currently scoring above the 86th percentile in math. Overall, the school's Academic Performance Index has increased from 759 in 1999 to 829 in 2001.

In granting National Blue Ribbon status, the Secretary of Education has recognized the dedication and commitment of the administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents to the continued improvement and excellence of this school. In the midst of all the recent news that is so often discouraging, it is imperative that we acknowledge this superb effort by the team that has made Ivey Ranch Elementary a National Blue Ribbon school. While there may be evil in this world, we know that there are many more people who are committed to making this world and our country a better place. Ivey Ranch Elementary is evidence that there are good people out there, doing very good work, and providing an excellent education to the children who represent our nation's future. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to represent the students, teachers, administrators, and parents who contributed to this achievement. These good people deserve strong recognition of their achievements. May Ivey Ranch Elementary remind all of us that ours is a nation of hard workers and good people. Well done Oceanside Unified School District; great work Ivey Ranch Elementary.